

Transcripts of Dr. Henry Tomes video clips

A good time for students of color to involve themselves

Ah, I think that a student who would come here not only gets a first rate education in psychological processes, search, etc, but they also get some relationship with faculty and other students that I think are just invaluable, so I would really say that this is a good time for the department and it is a good time for a student of color to involve themselves in this clinical program and in the department.

The quality of education at Penn State

So what they did is they taught me. I had a great education. I learned the best psychology that there was at that time.

How the Penn State Ph.D. opened doors professionally

When I graduated with a degree from Penn State, I went to Nashville, Tennessee; I went to a medical school that had never had a black psychologist doing anything with them. They had used consultants from places like Vanderbilt and Peabody and other places but that had not had people on the faculty and they certainly didn't have a black Ph.D. It worked out; it was wonderful. It worked out well on the black side of town and it worked out well on the white side of town. The Penn State Doctorate was just wonderful; I mean it was accepted, I mean it wasn't like you went to some little school that nobody ever heard of, but a Ph.D., and nobody in Nashville had one of those but me.

Longstanding interest in psychology

I am always interested and hope of have a chance to ask students here of color how they happened to get interested in Psychology. I have always been interested in dealing with issues related to human behavior. Psychology was just, I mean it really did it for me and it still does it for me.

Graduate student Nana Dawson-Andoh discusses how she found out about PSU

The reason I found out about the program was actually, interestingly, through social psychology. A mentor of mine from undergrad, her son was a faculty member in social and he was good friends with Jose, Jose Soto. I am interested in multi-cultural psychology. So when I was doing my search; trying to figure out where I was going apply to graduate school, that was my main focus. I knew it was a great department and I knew that they had great focus on both research and clinical aspects, which is what I wanted and also knowing that Jose was here and reading about his research. That for me was how pretty much I discovered it. It was, I think, it was all my research, my leg work, you know, going through each university and identifying the faculty who

were doing the topic that I was interested, who was doing the research I was interested in.

Dr. Tomes discusses his career

Just for this record, at the school where I was and the job I had, I became a professor of clinical psychology in the Department of Psychiatry. I had enormous administrative responsibility which I loved. I left there and went to Washington State and directed the community mental health program for the State of Washington. Then I was invited and accepted going to Massachusetts to work in the Department of Mental Health there as the Deputy. I was there for a little while and the Commissioner left. The governor then, who was Dukakis, asked me if I would take over the department. It was the biggest think I had ever done. Huge, but it was a wonderful responsibility. I left there and then went to the American Psychological Association.

I guess what I am saying is I think that all of that stems from the early training, the graduate training. As I said the content of what I got from Penn State was absolutely marvelous. I have had opportunities to go other places and evaluate clinical programs and so on and so on, but this was, just content wise, wonderful.

Inspiration for pursuing clinical psychology

The question I had for you was what inspired you to pursue graduate training in clinical psychology? Coming from Fisk University did you have a mentor there or were there other peers pursuing the same kind of training, I was just curious as to the inspiration.

At Fisk University there was a psychology department and I was a major in psychology. I was a very good student there so the head of the department, who was also one of my instructors, indicated to me that I probably could be successful in getting a doctorate in psychology. He had never had a student of his go to a doctoral program in those days. He was very excited when I said was willing to do that and then in fact, I did get accepted. I did have a mentor and it was someone who wanted me to have a career in psychology and is someone who, in fact, recommended and strongly suggested that I come to Penn State.